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REVISION OF AERONAUTICS BULLETIN NO. 18

The Civil Aeronautics Authority now has work under way which will result in the revision of Aeronautics Bulletin No. 18, current as of January 1, 1939. A study of the various State Session Laws discloses that comparatively little has been done in the state regulatory field since the bulletin was first published by the Bureau of Air Commerce on January 1, 1936. There are a few exceptions where the Uniform State Regulatory Act has been adopted, either in its original or in modified form. Several states, however, have adopted the Uniform Airports Act and have, thereby, afforded their various political subdivisions a greater and more practical opportunity to enter into the airport field and have thus paved the way for future activity along this line.

There is considerable activity expected during the next few months as many state legislatures are now in session. Word has already been received from several states which reveals a marked trend toward uniformity in both fields. Again, there are a few exceptions, and one instance where serious consideration is being given to a major curtailment of state aeronautical activities. The latter case is a natural reaction to a program which has involved the expenditure of large sums of money over a period of but a few years. The desire of this state is to reduce to a minimum, but yet to retain, those functions necessary for adequate control and coordination and to eliminate those which are not.

A matter of primary concern at the present time involves the "Zoning" of property adjacent to airports. The Uniform Airports Act provides for the acquisition of air rights by grant, purchase, lease or condemnation. All of these methods, except the first, imply the payment of compensation to the owner of the land and no one of them may be strictly classified as zoning. The entire subject is one which is demanding serious attention and study on the part of many and protection of the flying public by means of providing safe approaches to landing areas offers state and local problems which have not yet been solved satisfactorily. The importance of zoning for airports will increase rapidly as traffic problems increase and particularly as the use of instrument landings develops.

ELWOOD B. COLE.